

SENATE BILL 2013

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,
Chapter 5, relative to dental hygienists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108, is amended by deleting subdivisions (c)(4) and (5) and substituting instead the following as new subdivisions (c)(4), (5), and (6):

(4) A dental hygienist may perform subgingival curettage or administer nitrous oxide only under direct supervision.

(5) A dental hygienist may perform scaling and root planning, periodontal maintenance, and administer local anesthesia under general supervision, if the following requirements are met:

(A) The patient is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

(B) The patient has been examined by a dentist licensed in this state within the previous eleven (11) months;

(C) There has been no major change in the patient's medical history since the last dental examination. If there has been a change, the dental hygienist must obtain the approval of the supervising dentist before administering local anesthesia;

(D) The supervising dentist has examined the patient and determined that the patient meets the diagnostic criteria for scaling and root planning or periodontal maintenance with the administration of local anesthesia by a dental hygienist acting under general supervision and the supervising dentist has documented this approval in the patient's record; and

(E) The dental hygienist is licensed and certified to administer local anesthesia.

(6) Under general supervision a dental hygienist may provide to patients, for not more than fifteen (15) consecutive business days, all other dental hygiene services not otherwise limited to direct supervision by this chapter or rules adopted by the board, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) The dental hygienist has at least one (1) year, full-time, or an equivalent amount of experience practicing dental hygiene;

(B) The dental hygienist complies with written protocols for emergencies that the supervising dentist establishes;

(C) The supervising dentist examined the patient not more than eleven (11) months prior to the date the dental hygienist provides the dental hygiene services;

(D) The dental hygienist provides dental hygiene services to the patient in accordance with a written treatment plan developed by the supervising dentist for the patient; and

(E) The patient is notified in advance of the appointment that the supervising dentist will be absent from the location and that the dental hygienist cannot diagnose the patient's dental health care status.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(d)(3), is amended by deleting the language "may administer a local anesthetic but only under the direct supervision of" and by substitutions instead the language "may administer a local anesthetic under the general supervision of".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(h) A dental hygienist may prescribe, administer, and dispense dentifrices, periodontal rinses, fluoride supplements, and topically applied fluorides.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.